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**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
LOK SABHA**

**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
(2015-2016)**

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

SIXTH REPORT

'EMPOWERMENT OF TRIBAL WOMEN'



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

May, 2016/Vaisakha, 1938 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 3rd May, 2016

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 3rd May, 2016



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

(2014-2015)

Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty - Chairperson

MEMBERS LOK SABHA

2. Smt. Anju Bala
3. Kum. Sushmita Dev
4. Smt. Rama Devi
5. Smt. Jyoti Dhurve
6. Smt. Bhavana Gawali
- 7.@ Smt. Riti Pathak
8. Smt. Rakshatai Khadse
9. Smt. Poonamben Maadam
10. Ms. Mehbooba Mufti
11. Smt. Anupriya Patel
12. Smt. Jayshreeben Patel
13. Smt. Butta Renuka
14. Smt. Satabdi Roy
15. Smt. Mala Rajyalakshmi Shah
16. Smt. Rita Tarai
17. Smt. P. K. Sreemathi Teacher
18. Smt. Savitri Thakur
19. Smt. R. Vanaroja
- 20.# Smt. Supriya Sule

RAJYA SABHA

- 21.* Smt. Kanimozhi
22. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
23. Smt. Vandana Chavan
24. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
25. Shri Anubhav Mohanty
26. Smt. Kahkashan Perween
- 27.\$ Vacant
28. Smt. Bimla Kashyap Sood
29. Shri A.V. Swamy
30. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

@ Smt. Riti Pathak was nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 05.02.2015 *vice* Smt. Shobha Karandlaje upon her resignation w.e.f. 3.12.2014

Smt. Supriya Sule was nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 05.02.2015

* Shrimati Kanimozhi was nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 05.02.2015 *vice* Shrimati Jaya Bachchan upon her resignation w.e.f. 18.09.2014.

\$ Sh. G. N. Ratanpuri retired w.e.f. 15.02.2015

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
(2015-2016)**

Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shrimati Anju Bala
3. Shrimati Renuka Butta
4. Km. Sushmita Dev
5. Shrimati Rama Devi
6. Shrimati Jyoti Dhurve
7. Shrimati Bhavana Gawali
8. Shrimati Raksha Khadse
9. Shrimati Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam
10. Ms. Mehbooba Mufti
11. Shrimati Anupriya Patel
12. Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel
13. Shrimati Riti Pathak
14. Shrimati Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)
15. Shrimati Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah
16. Shrimati Supriya Sule
17. Shrimati Rita Tarai
18. Shrimati P. K. Sreemathi Teacher
19. Shrimati Savitri Thakur
20. Shrimati R. Vanaroja

RAJYA SABHA

- 21.* Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya
22. Shrimati Vandana Chavan
23. Shrimati Kanimozhi
24. Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai
25. Shri Anubhav Mohanty
26. Shrimati Kahkashan Perween
27. Shrimati Kanak Lata Singh
- 28.\$ Shrimati Bimla Kashyap Sood
29. Shri A.V. Swamy
30. Shrimati Wansuk Syiem

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri N. C. Gupta - Joint Secretary
2. Shri S.C. Chaudhary - Director
3. Smt. Reena Gopalakrishnan - Deputy Secretary
4. Shri Aritra Das - Sr. Committee Assistant

* Smt. Jharna Das Baidya retired w.e.f. 02.04.2016

\$ Smt. Bimla Kashyap Sood retired w.e.f. 02.04.2016

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Committee on Empowerment of Women(2015-16), having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Sixth Report on 'Empowerment of Tribal Women'.

2. Realizing that the tribal society in general and tribal women in particular still suffer from abysmal socio-economic backwardness and many dimensional deprivations in our country, the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2014-15), selected the subject for detailed examination and report to the Parliament. The Committee also took oral evidence of the Ministry on 29.01.2016.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for appearing before them for evidence and furnishing the information desired by the Committee in connection with the issues relating to the subject.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 28 April, 20 16.

5. The Committee also place on record their appreciation for the valuable assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

6. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in Part II of the Report.

NEW DELHI
28 April, 2016
08 Vaishakha , 1938 (Saka)

BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY,
Chairperson,
Committee on Empowerment of Women.

REPORT

PART I

I. INTRODUCTORY

India is a multifaceted country with diverse cultures, dialects, pluralist traditions and mesmerizingly distinctive social norms. If these infinitely awesome verities create an exceptional co-existential experience, the differences among its people are no less stupefying either. Be it class, caste, urban-rural divide or lop-sided developmental outcomes between communities, the yawning gaps continue to hold back the aspirations of many of its people up till now. Yet, among them, tribal population is the most disenfranchised lot. And if a whole community suffers from neglect, under development and exploitation, the condition of womenfolk among them can barely be satisfactory. In fact, it cannot be gainsaid that the tribal women are at the bottommost part of our societal pyramid and their cry for affirmative actions and interventional needs cannot be ignored by a welfare State and inclusive democracy like ours.

1.2 While women of upwardly mobile societies have arguably progressed through the years in many fields; be it education, employment opportunities, doing away with misogynic social prejudices and so on, state-of-affairs of tribal women leave much to be desired till date. Tribal women, and tribal society at large, are stuck in the vicious cycle of backwardness and lack in human development parameters for generations, almost in all counts. Hence, their cry for empowerment can no longer be overlooked or relegated to the backburner of priorities by the State.

1.3 With the objective to reviewing the status of tribal women and finding ways and means to empower them, the Committee on Empowerment of Women selected the subject 'Empowerment of Tribal Women' for detailed examination and report. During the course of examination of the subject, the Committee had studied in-depth the prevailing condition of tribal women, dwelt upon the adversities and privations they come across throughout their life-stages, education, health, rights etc. to make appropriate as well as meaningful recommendations that can be taken up for their empowerment and wholesome development in the years to come. The Committee during their study visits to various States and Union Territories have also interacted with tribal women and discussed pertinent issues of tribal communities with the

officials of Tribal Departments of the State /Union Territories concerned. The Committee also took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry Tribal Affairs in connection with the examination of the subject.

1.4 The Committee are given to understand that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for the overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes for the development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs). The Committee find that the Ministry was set up in 1999 after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the objective of providing more focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the most underprivileged of the Indian society, in a coordinated and planned manner.

1.5 The programmes and schemes of the Ministry are intended to support and supplement, through financial assistance, the State Governments and voluntary organizations, and to fill critical gaps taking into account the needs of STs. Though the primary responsibility for promotion of interests of Scheduled Tribes rests with all the Central Ministries, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs complements their efforts by way of various developmental interventions in critical sectors through specially tailored schemes. These schemes which are for the economic, educational and social development are administered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and implemented through the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and voluntary organizations.

1.6 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Committee have been told, is dedicated for achieving inclusive growth of tribal population in the country. The role of the Ministry is to participate and advocate for formulation of appropriate policies, planning and coordination of programmes meant for development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs). A multi-pronged strategy has been adopted for overall development of tribal people across the country which includes support for education, health, sanitation, water supply, livelihood, preservation of cultural heritage, etc. The major part of infrastructural development activities is carried out through various schemes/programmes of concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments, while the Ministry provides additive to these initiatives by way of plugging critical gaps.

1.7 During evidence, the representatives of the Ministry deposed before the Committee as under :

".....We try and bring these issues through various mechanisms so that the tribal perspectives is brought when the particular sectoral issue is dealt with a particular department or the Ministry. For that purpose, there is an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee which is working since last two years and this year the Committee of Secretaries has recommended that each Ministry, when it is finalising its Tribal Sub Plan, should consult a Ministry of Tribal Affairs so that the tribal perspective with respect to that particular Ministries program is fine tuned to that extant."

II. Population and economic activities of tribal women

1.8 Tribal population in the country is 10.45 million constituting 8.6% of the total population as per the census of 2011, of which percentage of female is 49.7%. The percentage of ST girls in the age group of 0-6 years is 7.8% and the growth rate of ST population and ST female between 2001-11 had been 24% and 24.7% respectively. State/UT wise chart showing the break-up of population of different tribal groups of the country including Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and elsewhere, as per Census 2011, is at ***Annexure-I***.

1.9 The Committee have been informed that, besides agriculture, large number of women in tribal communities are engaged in animal husbandry, livestock management, goatery, poultry, fisheries, horticulture, floriculture, handloom and handicrafts, painting and artistry, soft skills, hospitality construction work etc. The Ministry has also stated in a reply that out of total ST women workers, 55.1% work as agricultural labourers in rural areas though, it has conceded that the data on migrant tribal women is not available with them as it has not been finalized by the Registrar General of India (RGI) yet. The Ministry, however, has provided the Committee with State/UT wise number of ST women engaged in agriculture and non-agricultural activities, which are shown at ***Annexure II & III***.

1.10 The Committee have been told that the tribal women have started to play a very important role in the economic development by way of contributing in agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, floriculture, arts, crafts, soft-skills, hospitality skills etc. The Committee are also aware of many possibilities that 'agro start-ups' can create in village areas through value additions to natural resources and in this regard 'Urlong Tea Village Cooperative Society', located in Meghalaya's Mawlyngot village, 45 km

off the Shillong, the State capital, may be a template for such projects. Started in 2011, it has gained the attention of people and experts for its commitment to organic farming and the social change it has brought into the lives of people, especially women, in neighbouring villages. It produces black, green and white tea under the brand name 'Urlong' and its products are in huge demands that are mostly met through brick and mortar stores as well as online platforms in markets.

III. Welfare measures for tribal women

1.11 On being asked about the different welfare measures for tribal women in the country, the Ministry has submitted that various Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments are implementing many schemes/programmes for the welfare of tribal communities. However, the following are some of the important schemes/programmes implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the Welfare of Tribals and which have specific provisions for tribal women and girls:

" i) Special Central Assistance(SCA) to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP): It provides an additive to the State TSP and is meant for family-oriented income-generation schemes in sectors like agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, animal husbandry etc. A part of the SCA(not more than 30%) is also permitted to be used for development of infrastructure incidental to such income generating schemes. 30% to 50% of the outlay, envisaged for the projects, concern issues of women and female beneficiaries. SCA is released for the economic development of the following:-

a) *Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas in which out of total population, ST population is 50%.*

b) *Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) pockets containing 50% or more of ST population out of total population of 10000 and above.*

c) *Cluster-identified pockets containing 50% or more ST population out of total population of 5000.*

d) *For Primitive tribes among STs characterized by the low rate of population, pre-agricultural level of technology and extremely low levels of literacy.*

e) *Displaced tribal population outside (a), (b), (c) and (d) above.*

f) *Assistance of Margin Money loan Programme (MMLP) for Tribal Finance and Development Corporations in the States to implement MMLP*

g) *Acceptance and Sanction of specific project proposals.*

ii) Grants-in-aid under article 275(1) of the Constitution: The grants are provided to the States on the basis of percentage of ST population to the total

tribal population of the country. Funds are released to State Governments against specific projects for the welfare of STs and strengthening of administration of tribal areas from the year 2000-01. A part of the fund is also utilized to establish Eklavya Model Residential Schools to provide quality education to ST students from class VI to XII. States can take up activities for strengthening the infrastructure in the sectors critical to enhancement of human development indices such as education, income generation, health irrigation, roads, bridges, forests, forest villages, electrification, processing of Minor Forest Produces, tribal land management etc. and other activities meant for welfare of tribal population. 30% to 50% of the outlay, envisaged for the projects, concern issues of women and female beneficiaries

iii) Schemes for construction of Hostels: It aims at augmenting the availability of educational facilities to ST students, thereby reducing drop-out rates at the middle/higher levels of education. The scheme provides for the construction of new hostels and extension of existing hostel buildings for the middle, secondary, college and university levels of education. 100% financial support is given to State Governments for construction of Girls hostels. In case of UTs, the Central Government bears the entire cost of construction of both boys' and girls' hostels.

iv) Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-plan areas: The scheme provides for education with residential facilities in an environment conducive to learning. It releases funds for construction for school buildings from primary to the secondary stages and also provides for the up gradation of the existing Ashram schools for ST boys and girls'. 100% financial support is given to State Governments for construction of Ashram schools for girls'. In case of UTs, the Central Government bears here as well the entire cost of construction of Ashram schools for boys' and girls'. Under this scheme, besides school buildings, the construction of students' hostels and staff quarters are undertaken. The State Government/UT provide the land for Ashram Schools free of cost."

1.12 Apart from the above, the Committee have been informed that there are other schemes for the benefits of tribal women and the tribal communities as a whole. Some of these schemes are as under:

" i) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations: Under this, the Ministry funds projects covering residential schools, non-residential schools, hostels, libraries, mobile dispensaries, ten or more bedded hospitals, computer training centers, rural night schools, agricultural training etc. Financial assistance is also provided for strengthening education among ST girls in low literacy districts and pockets inhabited by Particularly Vulnerable Groups (PVTGs). Naxalite affected areas are given priority.

ii) Scheme for Development of Particularly Vulnerable Groups (PVTGs): This scheme covers 75 identified PVTGs among STs in accordance with Conservation-cum-Development plans prepared by the State/UT through various agencies of the State Government/UT administrations like Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs), Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs), Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) and also NGOs. Here the scheme

envisage skill development and up-gradation activities and give equal emphasis on women.

iii) Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY): National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation(NSTFDC) runs AMSY. It is an exclusive scheme/project meant for economic development of eligible ST women. It provides term loan for projects costing up to Rs. 50,000/- at highly concessional interest rate of 4% p.a."

IV. Social security schemes for tribal women

1.13 The Committee have been informed about some of the social security schemes that have specific provisions for women, including tribal women. These are Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 1948, Swadhar Shelter Home etc. To elaborate, the Ministry has further stated that IGNWPS is part of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). Other schemes under NSAP include Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna Scheme. Swadhar Shelter Home initiative takes care of widows deserted by their families and relatives, women prisoners not accepted by their families, women survivors of natural calamities etc., Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 provides for health care and cash benefit in case of sickness, maternity and injury during work and Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008, inter-alia, provides for health and maternity benefit, old-age pension etc.

1.14 Besides above, the Committee have also been informed of the other schemes like Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana(AABY), Pradhan Mantri Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana(SJSRY) etc, benefiting general population as well as tribal women. On being enquired by the Committee about the impact these social security schemes have so far had on the lives of tribal women, the Ministry has stated that their impacts on the lives of tribal women have not been captured separately.

1.15 The Committee also asked the Ministry about the number of tribal women availing of the benefits of social security schemes launched recently by the Central Government, like Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana(PMSBJ), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana (PMJJY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), till 30/09/2015. The Ministry in its reply has stated that information called for is not available as figures related to tribal women are not kept by the insurer while enrolling them for the

schemes. However, the Ministry has said that no discrimination based on social/economic background was done in this regard and all insurance policies are open to purchase by women belonging to any social/economic background

1.16 As regards MGNREGA, the Ministry in its written reply has stated that an additional 50 days of wage employment beyond the stipulated 100 days of guaranteed wage employment has been permitted for title holders under the Forest Rights Act, provided these households have no other private property, except for the land rights provided under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

1.17 The social security schemes for tribal women are also managed by individual States. Among them, the Committee have been told, 'Mamta' scheme is a landmark welfare scheme of conditional cash transfer for tribal women in Odisha, which targets to cover pregnant women of 19 years and above for the first two live births, except for government/PSU employees. As per census 2011, the actual number of eligible tribal women under the scheme are 1.19 lakhs, which is 23% of all beneficiaries. In Ministry's written replies to the Committee, State-schemes like 'Children for Widow' of Goa, Tribal Pension Scheme of West Bengal etc. also found mention.

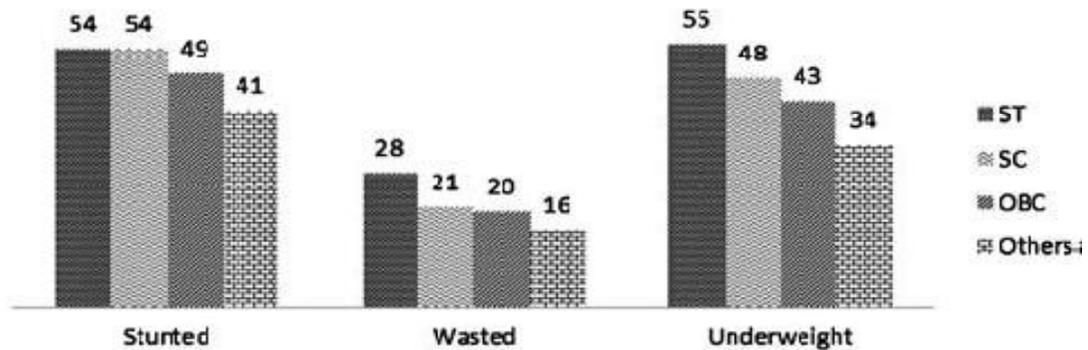
V. Heath profile of tribal women

1.18 Responding to the queries of the Committee, the Ministry in its written replies has revealed that tribal women in particular and tribal people in general lack in many crucial health parameters like infant mortality rate, under five mortality rate, total fertility rate, undernourishment etc. Figures of National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-3 as well as field visits also corroborate the findings where observations show incidences of sickle cell anemia, anemia and malnutrition being particularly high among tribal women as compared to general population. The key health indicators, under NFHS-3, showing figures of ST vis-à-vis total percentage is given below:

Key Health Indicators NFHS-3 2005-06	Figures (%)	
	ST	Total
Infant Mortality	62.1	57.0
Neo-natal Mortality	39.9	39.0
Post-natal Mortality	22.3	18.0

Child Mortality	35.8	18.4
Under five Mortality	95.7	74.3
ANC Check-up	70.5	77.1
Percentage Institutional Deliveries	17.7	38.7
Prevalence of any anemia (120g/dl) in women	68.3	55.3

1.19 As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 3, conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare during 2005-06 and cited by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in its Annual Report, 2014-15 (page-212), the status of stunting, wasting, and under weighing among children under five years by Caste/Tribe is given below:



1.20 As per the report mentioned above, the infant mortality rate and under-5 child mortality rate for STs have been compared with all categories in different States. The figures of which have been cited below:

SI No.	State	Infant Mortality (IMR)		<5 Mortality (U5MR)	
		All	ST	All	ST
1	Andhra Pradesh	68.4	(94.1)	78.7	(112)
2	Arunachal Pradesh	60.7	67.6	87.7	100.9
3	Assam	66.1	59	85	83.2
4	Chhattisgarh	80.8	90.6	105.5	128.5

5	Gujarat	62.8	(86.0)	77.0	(115.8)
6	J&K	45.5	(34.3)	53.8	*
7	Jharkhand	76.6	93.0	112.4	138.5
8	Karnataka	53.0	(45.8)	66.2	(77.9)
9	Madhya Pradesh	81.9	95.6	108.2	140.7
10	Maharashtra	45.3	51.4	53.4	69.8
11	Manipur	29.7	51.2	41.9	71.4
12	Meghalaya	44.6	49.3	70.5	74
13	Nagaland	38.3	45.8	64.7	65.8
14	Orissa	67.7	78.7	94.7	136.3
15	Rajasthan	72.7	73.2	93.3	113.8
16	Sikkim	33.7	28.9	40.1	35.9
	All India	57	62.1	74.3	95.7

1.21 On being asked about the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis among tribal women, the Ministry in a reply submitted as under:

"The prevalence of STI/RTI amongst adult sexually active population is 5% as per community based STI study done by ICMR in 2002-03. The STI Programme does not capture prevalence of STI among tribal population.

The percentage of ST women between 15-49 years with HIV-AIDS positive and Tuberculosis as per NFHS-3 is given as under:

Disease NFHS 3 (2005-06)	Number of ST Women (15-49 yrs)	% of ST women (15-49 yrs)
HIV- AIDS	9982 (tested)	0.12 (HIV positive)
Tuberculosis	23125 (surveyed)	84.9 (who have heard of Tuberculosis) "

VI. Maternal and Child Health

1.22 The Ministry has told the Committee that reduction of Maternal mortality and morbidity is one of the foremost objectives and to achieve this goal, a number of maternal health schemes are implemented across the country for all pregnant women including tribal women. The Maternal Health Interventions and Services are made available to all pregnant women including tribal women and these include, among others, as under:

- Ø *Promotion of institutional deliveries through JananiSuraksha Yojana.*
- Ø *Operationalization of sub-centres, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centers and District Hospitals for providing 24x7 basic and comprehensive obstetric care services.*
- Ø *Name based Web enabled tracking of pregnant women to ensure antenatal, intranasal and postnatal care.*
- Ø *Mother and Child protection card in collaboration with the M/o Women & Child Development to monitor service delivery for mother and children.*
- Ø *Antenatal, Intranatal and Postnatal care including Iron and Folic supplementation to pregnant and lactating women for prevention and treatment of anemia. After the first trimester of pregnancy, every pregnant woman during ANC is also given iron and folic acid tablets for six months, after the first trimester of pregnancy and six months post-partum.*
- Ø *Engagement of 9.15 lakh Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) to generate demand and facilitate accessing of health care services by the community.*
- Ø *Janani Shishu Suraksha Kayakaram (JSSK),launched on 1st June, 2001, entitles all pregnant women delivering in Public health institutions to have absolutely free delivery including Caesarean section. The initiative stipules free drugs, diagnostics, blood and diet, besides free transport form home to institution, between facilities in case of referral and droop back home. Similar entitlements have been put in place for all sick infants accessing public health institutions for treatment.*
- Ø *Prior to launch of National Health Mission (NHM), Call-Centre based ambulance network was virtually non-existent. Now 31 States have the facility where people can dial 108 or 102 or 104 for calling an ambulance.*
- Ø *More than 17,000 'Delivery Points' fulfilling certain benchmarks of performance, have been identified across the county for placing emergency obstetric care services at the health facilities, once the women have come into institutional fold. These are being strengthened in terms of infrastructure, equipment, trained manpower for provision of comprehensive reproductive, maternal, newborn child health services along with services for adolescence and family planning etc.*

Ø *The process of Maternal Data Review(MDR) has been institutionalized across the country both at facilities and in the community to identify not only the medical causes but also some of socio-economic cultural determinants as well as the gaps in the system which contribute to the delays causing such deaths. This is with the objective of taking corrective action at appropriate levels and improving the quality of obstetric care.*

1.23 In addition to above, the Committee have been informed by the Ministry that certain operational guidelines have been prepared and disseminated to the States for screening of diagnosis and management of gestational diabetes mellitus, hypothyroidism, de-worming, calcium supplementation, universal screening for syphilis and HIV during pregnancy etc. Besides, for tribal districts including tribal blocks, a few activities are also being simultaneously implemented. These are:

Ø Creation of Birth-waiting Homes: *In remote and tribal areas, with poor road connectivity and access to health facilities, 'Birth-waiting Homes' are being encouraged within the compound of health facility or within areas in close proximity. Pregnant women can come and stay in these homes well before their Expected date of Delivery (EDD) and transferred to the facility once they go into labour.*

Ø Special and innovation transportation: *In remote and inaccessible areas where there is no Motor-able road, special schemes and incentives are being given to the states as per their proposal for bringing pregnant women and sick neonates (by palkis, carts etc) to the nearest road head that serves as a pick up point for referral transport.*

Ø Suitable incentives to ANMs (SBAs): *ANMs trained in SBA can be incentivized for attending home deliveries in pre-identified and notified villages in remote and inaccessible areas where it is difficult to bring a woman to the institution for delivery on account of geographical/climate exigencies. Recently a policy decision has been taken by GOI permitting administration of Micropostol to prevent postpartum hemorrhage by ASHA at the time of home delivery.*

Ø *In addition, a norm of " Time to care' has been adopted under which a sub-centre can be set up within 30 minutes by walk from habitations in selected districts of hilly States and desert areas.*

1.24 Above mentioned initiatives aside, other strategies, put forth by the Ministry, which can be implemented by the States, for which funds are given as per their proposals, are relaxation of population norms for the ASHAs in the tribal areas, organization of frequent Health Melas and RCH camps, special IEC campaign in accordance with the local customs and establishment of Sub-Centres with more

manpower, i.e., at least 2 ANMs, 1 pharmacist, 1 MPW so that the basic needs of the tribes can be addressed.

VII. National Health Mission (NHM) and tribal women

1.25 The National Health Mission(NHM), the Committee have been informed, has different programmatic components like Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Strategy (RMNCH+A), Janani-Shisu Suraksha Karyakram, Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, Rastriya Kisor Swasthy Karyakram and India Newborn Action Plan, especially for all marginalized sections including tribal women and their children. It has been further stated by the Ministry that under NHM, support is provided to States/UTs to strengthen the healthcare system, universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health-care services to all the population including the tribal population. The brief highlights of the programme are as below:

Ø RMNCH+A: It was launched in 2013 and it works to address the major causes of mortality among women and children as well as the delays in accessing and utilizing health care and services. 184 districts, mostly low performing ones, have been identified as the high priority districts (HPDs) to sharpen the focus and interventions for achieving improved maternal and child health outcomes. The available evaluated data on representative MCH indicators were reviewed, composite index developed and bottom 25% districts identified. The LWE and tribal districts falling in bottom 50% were also declared as HPDs for intensification of efforts which are being supported through interventions like gap analysis, relaxation of norms for strengthening service delivery, priority interventions through life-cycle approach, special strategies, packages, incentives and demand generation. Taking the objective of NHM forward, 100/50/30 bedded state-of-the-art Maternal and Child Health Wings (MCH) are being established in District Hospitals/District Women's Hospitals/Sub-district Hospitals/CHC-FRUs to overcome the constraints of increasing caseloads and institutional deliveries at these facilities. 486 dedicated MCH wings with more than 30000 additional beds have been sanctioned in 21 states. Another effort has been made to enhance the availability of human resources particularly in HPDs through a slew of measures like improving retention of specialists, medical officers and nursing personnel, particularly in difficult areas through special incentives, hiring of contractual personnel including MOs and Nurses, for operationalization of comprehensive RMNH services at delivery points. Reduction of infant mortality rate to 25 per 1000 live births, maternal mortality ratio to 100 per 100000 live births and reduction in total fertility rate to 2.1 by 2017 are the three goals that have been defined by the 12th five year plan.

Ø Janani Shisu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK): Government of India launched this karyakram on 1st June, 2011. The scheme is estimated to benefit more than 12 million pregnant women who access Government health facilities for their delivery. Moreover, it will motivate those who still choose to deliver at their homes to opt for institutional deliveries .It is an initiative with a

hope that States would come forward and ensure that benefits under JSSK would reach every needy pregnant women coming to government institutional facility. Under JSSK pregnant women are given free entitlements like cashless delivery including C-section, drug and consumables, diagnostics, diet during her stay in health institutions etc. Similarly, a whole set of entitlements for sick new-born till 30 days after birth are provided free, these include- free treatment, drug and consumables, diagnostic, provision of blood, transport between facilities in case of referral, drop back from institutions to home etc.

Ø Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK): It has been launched for Early Child Health Screening and Early Intervention services through early detection and management of 4Ds i.e. Defects at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies, Development delays including disability of children..Child Health screening and Early Intervention Services are to cover 30 common health conditions for early detection, management and to provide comprehensive care including surgeries at the tertiary level free of cost under NHM. This program is currently being rolled out in the States where the children are screened in the Anganwadi centers and schools, using a structural protocol of screening.

Ø Rastriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK): Launched on January,2014 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, this would target adolescents, in the age group of 10-19 years, in areas related to nutrition, reproductive health, substance abuse, mental health, prevention of injuries, violence etc.. The key principle of this programme is adolescent participation and leadership, equity and inclusion, gender equity and strategic partnerships with other sectors and stakeholders. It introduces community-based interventions through peer educators and will collaborate with other ministries/State Governments as well as comprehensively address the health needs of 243 million adolescents.

Ø Indian New-born Action Plan (INAP): INAP was launched in June, 2014 with a clear vision supported by goals, strategic intervention packages, priority actions and a monitoring framework to end preventable new-born deaths, accelerate progress and scale-up high-impact yet cost effective interventions. INAP also articulates GOI's specific attention on preventing stillbirths and is guided by the principles of integrations, equity, gender, quality of care, convergence, accountability and partnerships.

1.26 To emphasis further on the healthcare provisions in tribal dominated areas in the country, the Committee have been informed that High Priority Districts (HPDs) also contain 44 HPDs where the tribal population is almost 50% and these districts are entitled for 30% higher fund allocation and encouraged to adopt innovative approaches to address their peculiar health challenges. Moreover, to further strengthen the healthcare services in tribal areas including catering of health needs to tribal women, DoHFW has constituted an Expert-Group to analyze the specific needs and critical gaps in the tribal health.

1.27 On a question as to how health programmes attempt to wean off tribal women from unhygienic and primitive health practices, the Ministry in its written reply has stated that States are asked to prepare and budget for an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategy for bringing in behavioral changes among pregnant women and their families, which includes communication through all types of media as well as a focus on interpersonal communication through more than 9.15 lakh ASHAs who have been engaged under the mission.

1.28 The Ministry has also submitted that it acknowledges the poor health status of the ST population and strives for its improvement, advocating rigorously for strengthening of health institutions to improve overall health of tribes through immunization, better sanitation and safe drinking water.

1.29 As regards ensuring menstrual hygiene of tribal women, it has been submitted by the Ministry in a written reply as below:

"Under Menstrual Hygiene Scheme, all girls (10-19 years) in implementing districts are covered irrespective of caste, religion and geographical area.

Andaman and Nicobar Tribal Research & Training Institute (ANTRI) has taken up the cause for educating tribal women for maintaining menstrual hygiene.

In Daman & Diu, all girl child from standard 7 to 12 are given sanitary napkin (10 pieces per month) including girls in tribal dominating area."

1.30 The framework for implementation of NHM provides, the Committee have been informed, a separate chapter on tribal health issues. This framework recognizes need for differential strategies to address unique challenges in provision of healthcare in different tribal areas where States are requested and encouraged to provide for differential approaches for different tribal groups in light of varied health needs and contexts. Those tribal districts which are not categorized as High Priority Districts are designated as Special Focus Districts (SFDs) with the objective to ensure targeted and enhanced allocation of resources, innovative approaches for healthcare and enhanced monitoring and supervision. According to reply, the relaxed population norms for infrastructure, ASHAs, MMUs etc. for tribal and hilly areas are as under:

"Relaxed norms for health facilities –

- (i) Against the population norms of 5000, 30000, and 1,20,000 for setting up of Sub Centre, PHC and CHC respectively, in tribal it is 3,000, 20,000 and 80,000 respectively. This is to improve access to

free/affordable healthcare to tribal populations & to bring about improvement in the health indicators.

- (ii) A new norm for setting up a Sub Health Centre (SHC) based on 'time to care' within 30 minutes by walk from a habitation has been adopted for selected district of hilly and Desert areas. This new norm was adopted keeping in mind the wide dispersal of population coupled with difficult terrain in hilly and desert areas generally inhabited by tribal population.

Relaxed norms for ASHAs

- (i) Against the norm of one ASHA per 1000 population, the same is relaxed to one ASHA per habitation in Tribal/hilly and difficult areas

Relaxed norms for MMUs

Under NRHM, financial assistance is provided to States for MMUs with the objective to take health care to door steps of the public in rural areas, especially in the underserved tribal areas. The applicable norm is 5 MMUs per district based on population criteria. However, this can be further relaxed for hilly & tribal areas. States have also been specifically requested to provide MMUs especially in areas inhabited by PVTGs so as to provide primary health care facility close to PVTG habitations.

The support under NHM is provided based on requirements posed by the State/UTs as per their needs in their Programme Implementation Plans. Approvals for all interventions under NHM including for infrastructure and HR are prioritised for tribal HPDs and tribal and difficult areas. To meet the varied and local needs, States have the flexibility under NHM to contextualise guidelines issued under NHM. States also have the flexibility to design ASHA incentives."

1.31 On Mission 'Indradhanush', the Ministry have stated that it has been launched with the aim to cover the areas with low immunization coverage which includes tribal areas also. Under this, vaccines are administered free of cost to the children for various ailment, viz., Diphtheria, Pertusis, Tetanus(DPT), Polio, Measles, Bacillus Calmette-Guerin(BCG), Hepatitis B and Haemophilus Influenza type b (Hib), Japanese Encephalitis(JE) etc.

1.32 The Committee are aware that Sickle cell anemia is rampant among tribal population. With regard to a specific question as to how the States/UTs have responded to the Government's initiative to control this disease, the Committee have been informed that about 3 crore ST persons including ST girls are targeted to be screened across the country by 31st March, 2016 through the field level Government health agencies. The Ministry has provided first hand training to the State Government's functionaries including officials of Tribal Welfare Department, Health

Department officials like district CMOs etc.. It has been also envisaged to further provide training to field level health agencies by the State Governments so as to enable them to conduct the test. Most of the States, the Committee have been told, are in the last leg of training process and some of the States have already started screening process.

1.33 The Ministry has cited the example of Odisha that has established a dedicated Sickle Cell Institute at V.S.S Medical College Campus, Burla, which distributes free medicines to more than 2600 patients, resulting in significant decrease in severity of the disease. Besides, sickle cell health camps in remote areas for screening, counseling, diagnosis and treatment have been conducted. It has also conducted several international, national and district level Continuing Medical Education (CME) to create awareness amongst the medical professionals.

VIII. Malnutrition among tribals

1.34 The Ministry in its background note has stated that malnutrition among tribal is specifically high and many factors are responsible for it, making it a multifaceted, multidimensional and multi-sectoral problem. The Ministry has stated the findings of the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) Report, which states that prevalence of Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED) is 49% in tribal women. NNMB conducted this survey across nine States namely, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. The State-wise prevalence of CED among tribal women is as under:

S.No.	State	Chronic Energy Deficiency (BMI<18.5)
1	Kerala	44.2
2	Tamil Nadu	44.0
3	Karnataka	50.4
4	Andhra Pradesh	48.9
5	Maharashtra	62.5

6	Gujrat	36.6
7	Madhya Pradesh	45.9
8	Odisha	52.3
9	West Bengal	55.6
	Pooled	49.0

1.35 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the course of examination of the subject also delineated the schemes/programmes of various Ministries/Departments implemented through various State Governments/UTs. These schemes include Integrated Child Development Scheme(ICDS) of Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Mid-Day Meals Scheme of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Drinking Water & Total Sanitation Campaign and Targeted Public Distribution System of Department of Food & Public Distribution etc.

1.36 The Ministry while replying to a query as the measures taken to address malnutrition among tribal Children, Pregnant, Lactating mothers and old women has submitted as under:

"The Ministry of Tribal Affairs also rigorously advocated for strengthening of health institutions, and measures to improve overall health of tribals including immunization, better sanitation and safe drinking water in its meeting of Project Appraisal Committee. It also provides funds for construction of PHCs and Anganwadis, health camp, training and recruitment of ANMs, laboratory technicians, first aid providers. It encourages growing and consumption of minor millets and locally available leafy vegetables to address malnutrition. Ministry has also initiated documentation of tribal crops and food; tribal medicine and practices to improve health and nutrition issues. Awareness and information about good health practices, health benefits of planting/consumption of nutritious food and traditional nutritious crops have been given utmost importance in its various consultations and meetings with the State Governments and field functionaries. It has rigorously advocated administering IFA and Vitamin A tablets and proper hand washing with soap to children in tribal welfare run schools and hostels."

1.37 To improve the health and nutritional status of vulnerable population of the country, Government have undertaken various measures, some of which are as

follow :

"Measures to improve the nutritional Status of the population including Tribal population

- A. Various activities are carried out under the National Health Mission of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) of Ministry of Women and Child Development to reduce malnutrition among women and children. These activities are:
1. Promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding practices that include early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding till 6 months of age.
 2. Treatment of sick children with severe acute malnutrition at special units called the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), set up at public health facilities. Presently 891 such centres are functional.
 3. Micronutrient supplementation such as Vitamin A and Iron Folic Acid for children from 6 months to 5 years.
 4. Village Health and Nutrition Days and Mother and Child Protection Card are the joint initiative of the Ministries of Health & Family Welfare and the Ministry of Woman and Child for addressing the nutrition concerns in children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Monthly Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHND) are monthly days held at village level in Anganwadi centre to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breastfeeding.
 5. Promotion for intake of iodised salt and monitoring salt quality through testing under National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP).
 6. Management of malnutrition and common neonatal and childhood illnesses at community and facility level by training service providers in IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) training and implementation of Universal Immunization Programme.
 6. Under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Supplementary Nutrition is provided to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and Average Dietary Intake (ADI).

- B. Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices and dietary diversification is being encouraged under both Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) and National Health Mission (NHM).
- C. The National Food Security Act, 2013 aims to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- D. Other schemes which have an impact on nutritional status are as under:
 - Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls [RGSEAG] –
 - (SABLA).
 - Indira Gandhi MatritvaSahyogYojana (IGMSY).
 - Improving the purchasing power of the people through various income generating schemes including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
 - National Rural Drinking Water Programme etc."

IX. Literacy and Education among tribal women

1.38 The Ministry has quoted the figures of Census, 2011, which reveals that female literacy rate among STs is 49.36% (7+ age group) and 40.16% (15+ age group) respectively. The details relating to the State-wise literacy and absolute number of female illiterates and literates of the STs for age group 7 and above are at ***Annexure IV.***

1.39 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the evidence tendered before the Committee highlighted few aspects as the reasons behind high dropout rates among STs. These are, namely, textbooks/teaching materials not conforming to local requirements, lack of awareness about importance of education; migration of family to other places, need for helping parents in domestic work; illness of parents; death in family etc.

1.40 The dropout rate of tribal girls from elementary and higher levels is as under:

Year/ Classes	Classes (I-V)			Classes (I-VIII)			Classes (I-X)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
2010-11	37.2	33.9	35.6	54.7	55.4	55	70.6	71.3	70.9
2011-12	36.1	34.4	35.3	57.3	57.1	57.2	64.4	67.6	65.9
2012-13 (P)	33.3	31.2	32.3	50.6	47.5	49.2	63.2	62.2	62.7
2013-14 (P)	31.9	30.7	31.3	49.8	46.4	48.2	63.2	61.4	62.4

P-Provisional

Figures for 2010-11 and 2011-12 from SSE, M/o HRD and 2012-13 (P) and 2013-14(P) have been calculated from U-DISE-NUEPA Enrolment Data.

1.41 The Committee during its examination of the subject, while interacting with tribal women/girls and officials of tribal departments of various States/Union Territories have understood that long vacation in schools which do not coincide with tribal festivals is a major reason for children not returning to schools. The Committee had also felt the need for more girls hostels with women wardens. Separate toilets with running water supply is also a must in schools for ensuring the presence of girls in schools.

1.42 The Ministry has also cited The Right to Education Act, 2009 which states that, wherever practicable, children should be taught in mother tongue. Some steps taken by the States in this direction in the last few years are mentioned below:

- 11 States have developed material for bridging tribal children to medium of instruction
- Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Telengana have a systematic programme targeting children in class 1 to 4
- Programme for targeting children from different tribal groups
- Other States (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra) have initiated pilot projects in several languages.
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Tripura have developed textbooks in tribal languages.
- Textbooks, alphabet charts, story books, pictorial stories, pictorial charts, language games, magazine have been developed for children while for Teachers, teacher handbooks, pictorial glossary, and other resource material have been developed.

1.43 The Committee have been also informed that the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) in the National Curriculum Framework, 2005 (NCF) makes it clear that language and culture are important to children's learning. Thus, the steps taken to accomplish this are as under:

- Initiatives for promoting multi –lingual education for tribal children by initiating with the children’s mother tongue and slowly bridging with states’ official language and English.
- Development of wide range of textual materials/ primers in children’s mother tongue based on their experience and culture for use in classroom.
- Orientation of teachers (mostly nontribal teachers) on attitudinal issues

1.44 The Ministry has informed the committee about Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) which have been opened in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) where the female literacy is below the national average to provide for residential upper primary schools for girls. The KGBVs reach out to (a) girls who are unable to go to regular schools, (b) out-of-school girls in the 10+ age group, who are unable to complete primary schooling (c) younger girls of migratory populations in difficult areas of scattered habitations that do not qualify for primary/upper primary schools. Among these girls KGBVs provide reservation for 75% girls belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC) and minority communities. In respect of the remaining 25%, priority is given to girls from Below Poverty Lines (BPL) families. Out of 3609 KGBVs sanctioned in the country, 508 have been sanctioned in the Scheduled Tribe Districts. 86939 girls belonging to Schedule Tribe category are enrolled in the KGBVs throughout the country as on 30.6.2015.

1.45 The Ministry also implements various Scholarship Schemes for education for tribal students like National Overseas Scholarship for ST Students, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST Students, Top Class Education for ST Students, Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) for ST students and upgradation of merit of ST students. Year-wise number of beneficiaries under the Schemes are given below:

Year-wise number of beneficiaries under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Beneficiary	1867067	2034563	2107093	-

Year-wise number of beneficiaries under the Scheme of Upgradation of Merit

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Beneficiary	213	32	0	-

Year-wise number of beneficiaries under the Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF)

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Beneficiary	3335	3335	3335	-

Year-wise number of beneficiaries under the Scheme of Top Class Education

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Beneficiary	450	550	200	122

Year-wise number of beneficiaries under the Scheme [National Overseas Scholarships for ST Students](#)

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Beneficiary	13	9	-	-

X. Skill development for tribal girls/women

1.46 The Committee has been informed by the Ministry that there is no specific scheme for Skill Development for STs. However, under the programme of SCA to TSP and Article 275 (1) of the Constitution, funds are released to State Governments for the component of Skill Development with the condition that 50% of beneficiaries should be females.

1.47 The Ministry has also stated that Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) is an organization under their administrative control of them and is engaged in marketing development of tribal products. As part of its marketing development initiatives, TRIFED is engaged in imparting training on skill development, scientific collection & harvesting of Minor Forest Projects, & Handicraft. The training is provided through its 13 Regional Offices across India. The approach of marketing development of tribal products envisages TRIFED's role as a facilitator and service provider. As part of this initiative, TRIFED is providing training inputs for improving the skill & knowledge of tribals in the following:-

- Scientific non-destructive collection, processing, storage of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and enabling them to collect more & better the quality and increase the income on sustainable basis.
- Design development, skill development of tribal people in making handicrafts and handloom products.

1.48 As mentioned by the Ministry in its reply, so far, TRIFED has imparted skill development trainings in Handicraft to 2357 tribal women beneficiaries and 23567 tribal women beneficiaries have been imparted skill development and capacity building training on scientific collection of MFPs, during the period from 2006-07 to

2014-15. Overall, TRIFED has so far trained 25924 women tribal beneficiaries in both the trainings.

1.49 The Ministry has also informed the Committee about the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, through which the Government intends to integrate traditional vocational training centers with National Skill Development Mission with the following initiatives:-

- Necessary support through Common Norms, in terms of boarding, lodging, transporting cost and post placement, is extended to the women from the special areas. This will help women trainees to take up vocational training in these areas and outside.
- With sustainable Livelihoods under National Skill Development Mission, the government seeks to provide trainees with counseling services by experts to facilitate process of career guidance.
- Mentorship will be a core component of the implementation framework of skill development initiatives under the Mission.
- Promote entrepreneurial culture amongst youth through integrating entrepreneurship education as a part of formal education.
- Through convergence under National Skill Development Mission, the government seeks to promote states to open KaushalVardhanKendras (KVKs) to increase outreach and provide training linked to local needs.
- Though Institutional Training under National Skill Development Mission, the government seeks to establish a number of branded, purpose built Multi Skill Institutes (MSIs). MSIs will be located within demand centers, such as industrial clusters to promote close linkage with industry and facilitate placement.

1.50 The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (IIFCL) and NSTFDC jointly conducted a skill upgradation and economic empowerment programme for tribal handloom artisans in the North-Eastern states. The training programme was conducted in eight tribal pockets of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland and Sikkim. 200 ST women benefitted from this programme.

1.51 The Ministry has further stated about the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)(erstwhile Ajeevika Skills). It is a placement linked skill development scheme for rural poor. 'Roshni' is a special initiative for skilling of rural

youths in 27 LWE districts in 9 States. Skill training projects under DDU-GKY have to ensure coverage of 33% women candidates in skilling projects and for Roshni initiative, at least 40% coverage of women is necessary. It is also stated that under DDU-GKY, including 'Roshni', it is not necessary to set up training centers in tribal areas, rather candidates are allowed to be skilled in quality training centers in State or District Headquarters.

XI. Trafficking of tribal women

1.52 In response to Committee's concern on human trafficking, which is much prevalent among tribal women, the Ministry has replied as under:

"There is no reliable record available to indicate that large number of tribal women are trafficked from tribal belts to big cities and metropolises to engage them illegally from maid-servants to bonded labourers and to put them into sex trade and also to indicate which States are the worst-affected States from trafficking of tribal girls.

The Central Government has brought in the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, for checking cases of human trafficking against people of these communities.

The Indian Penal Code has also provided for provision to deal with the cases of human trafficking.

The Ministry of Labour & Employment has also issued guidelines to State Governments and UT Administrations to consider regulation of the functioning of private placement agencies for checking against human trafficking, as per their local needs.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing 'Ujjawala' – a comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation, Re-integration and Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has also constituted a Central Advisory Committee (CAC) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India to advise on the issues relating to trafficking.

The National Commission on Scheduled Tribe has been set up to, inter-alia, investigate and monitor matters relating to safeguards provided for STs under the Constitution or under other laws or under Govt. Order and to inquire into specific complaints relating to rights and safeguards of STs.

The National Commission for Women was set up to, inter-alia review the Constitutional and Legal safeguards for women; facilitate redressal of grievances and advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.

The State Government of Goa (Police) conducted many raids and have rescued hundreds of tribal women, which were trafficked from tribal belt of

North-eastern States. The rescued victims are subsequently lodged in Protective Home at Merces, Goa and counseled them by the NGOs. Thereafter, alternately some of them rehabilitated by Government/ NGOs and some of them are handed over to their parents/guardians. Those rehabilitated by Government/NGOs are given alternate employment in laundry industries, tailoring industries etc. Some of the NGOs are having their own rehabilitation centers, where they accommodate the victims.

The Government of Odisha has set up 12 Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Units for prevention of trafficking at Bhubaneswar, Cuttack; Rourkela; Sambalpur; Behrampur; Balasore; Talcher; Koraput; Sundergarh and Kandhamal Districts. These Units are funded by the Ministry of Home Affairs and each unit is provided with an annual contingency of Rs. 1.00 lakh per annum by W&CD Department. The Government has also decided to constitute District level Committee headed by District Collector for taking up activities of prevention, rescue and rehabilitation of victims. The Government has also instructed the Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayats to also involve in the process for efficacious remedy."

1.53 On being asked whether the Ministry has got any mechanism to identify and control trafficking, the representative of the Ministry submitted during the oral evidence as under.

"The Ministry of Tribal Affairs does not deal with the subject directly. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has issued detailed guidelines on this subject. There is a mechanism created, We will ascertain from them and apprise the Member with regard to the entire institutional mechanism put in place especially the issue of trafficking. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is not directly dealing with that one. Since it concerns the tribal women also, we will ascertain the details and apprise you of the factual position."

XII. Atrocities against tribal women

1.54 When asked to respond to the facts that tribal women have been victims of countless crimes/atrocities, it has been submitted in the reply as below:

"The Government set up the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes to, inter-alia, look into the matters relating to the safeguards provided for scheduled tribes under the Constitution or other laws and National Commission for Women to, inter-alia investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution or other laws. There is a provision in Indian Penal Code as well as in SC&ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 to deal with the cases of crime and atrocities against scheduled tribes.

The administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has also undertaken preventive measures to prevent crime against tribal women. The Police stations and police outposts have been established to protect the tribals from any such atrocities. Besides, there are 12 Jarawa Protection Posts with the deployment of 135 police personnel in place in Jarawa Tribal Reserve areas exclusively for the protection of the primitive Jarawa tribes of the islands. "

1.55 Further furnishing the details of the cases of rape, sexual violence, molestation etc., of tribal women during the last three years, it was stated as under:

"As per Crime Statistics of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 5,922 cases, 6,793 cases and 11,451 cases were registered against STs during 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively.

The provisions of the SCs & STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 are implemented by the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Central assistance is provided to them mainly for functioning and strengthening of the SC and ST Protection Cell, Special Police Stations, setting up of exclusive Special Courts, relief and rehabilitation of atrocity victims and awareness generation. A Committee under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment which was constituted in the year 2006, also periodically reviews implementation of the Act in States/UTs.

The details of cases registered for rape, sexual violence, molestation of tribal women during the last three years and the actions taken in this regard in Andaman & Nicobar Islands is given below:

A) Details of case registered for sexual violence

Year	Cr No. & Date	Under Section	No. of culprits booked	Present status of the cases
2012	7/12 dated 11/01/2012	U/s 292 IPC r.w.s 67 IT Act, 2000 and 3 (i) (x) (iii) of SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989 and 7/8 PAT Reg. 1956	02	Pending Trial
	17/12 dated 06/02/2012	U/s 292 IPC r.w.s 67 IT Act, 2000 and 3 (i) (x) (iii) of SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989 and 7/8 PAT Reg. 1956	02	Pending Trial
2013	--	--	--	--
2014	02/14 dated 18/01/2014	U/s 365 IPC, r.w.s. 7/8 (2) (5) (6) A & N PAT Reg. 1956 and 3 (i) (xii) of SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989.	03	Pending Trial
	08/14 dated 18/01/2014	U/s 365 IPC, r.w.s. 7/8 (2) (5) (6) A & N PAT Reg. 1956 and 3 (i) (xii) of SC / ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989.	04	Pending Trial

B) Details of case registered for molestation

Year	Cr No. & Date	Under Section	No. of culprits booked	Present status of the cases
2012	--	--	--	--
2013	42/13 dated 26/09/2013	U/s 354 IPC r.w.s (i) (xi) of SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act) 1989	01	Pending Trial
2014	--	--	--	--

C) Details of case registered for rape

Year	Cr No. & Date	Under Section	No. of culprits booked	Present status of the cases
2012	--	--	--	--
2013	--	--	--	--
2014	19/14 dated 06/08/2014	376 IPC, r.w.s. 3(i)(xi) SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act) 1989	01	Under investigation

XIII. Surrender and Rehabilitation of tribal women Naxalites

1.56 To the Committee's premise that Naxalites hold sway in large swaths of tribal regions and a good part of their cadres are tribal women and calling for views of the Government on this socio-political problem of Naxalite insurgency in tribal belts as well as the indoctrination of tribal women by them in large numbers, it was replied as under:

"This Ministry does not have information to substantiate that a good part of Naxalites cadres are tribal women.

However, the Central Government has adopted a four pronged strategy to tackle LWE insurgency in the areas of security, development, ensuring good governance and public perception management. On the development side, the Central Government has taken various measures including construction of roads, strengthening of communications network, installation of mobile towers, improving network of banks, post offices, health and education facilities in LWE areas. These developmental measures will help in weaning tribals away from LWE activities.

The Ministry of Home Affairs issues advisories to the LWE affected states on various aspects of Left Wing Extremism, on a regular basis. The State Governments specifically deal with various issues related to LWE activities in the States."

1.57 On being asked about the strategy adopted by the Government for the surrender and rehabilitation of tribal women insurgents and the results achieved so far, the Committee have been told as below:

"The Government of India has revised the guidelines for 'Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation Scheme of Left Wing Extremists in the affected States' with effect from 1.4.2013. The rehabilitation package in the revised policy, inter-alia, includes an immediate grant of Rs 2.5 lakh for higher ranked LWE cadres and Rs 1.5 lakh for middle/ lower ranked LWE cadres who surrender before the State Government concerned. Also, these surrenderees would be provided a monthly stipend of Rs4000/- for a period of three years for vocational

training. In addition, incentives for surrender of weapons/ ammunition etc. are also provided under the said Scheme.”

1.58 Again, replying to a query of the Committee about excesses by police, paramilitary forces and other vigilant groups and tortures, abuses, custodial deaths and extra-judicial killings of suspected Naxalites, the Committee have been told as under:

"The Government of India provides ex-gratia payment of up to Rs. 1 lakh to the family of civilians killed and Rs. 3 lakh to the family of security personnel killed in LWE violence under Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme. An ex-gratia compensation of Rs.15 lakh is, inter-alia, paid to the next kin of personnel of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) killed in action. The Government of India under “Central Scheme for Assistance to Civilian Victims of Terrorist/Communal/Naxal Violence” gives financial assistance of Rs. 3 lakh for each death or permanent incapacitation (disability of 50% or above) to the family of civilian victims.

The Government of Odisha has formulated a policy to encourage the Maoists to shun violence and join the mainstream. Rehabilitation and legal aid are provided by the ST & SC Development Department. Under the scheme, monetary relief is provided to SC and ST victims of atrocities."

XIV. Political empowerment of tribal women

1.59 The Committee also desired to know about the political empowerment of tribal women and the achievements made in this regard . To this, the Ministry in its written reply has submitted as under:

"The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 provides full and unrestricted opportunity to women of a village to participate in the meetings of the Gram Sabha at the time of processing of the claims by the Gram Sabha. They have been given representation in the various committees also, namely Sub Divisional Level Committee (SDLC), District Level Committee (DLC) and State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC), constituted under the Act before the claims filed by the forest dwelling STs and OTFDs are finally adjudicated for issues of title deeds. ” Section 2 (g) of the FRA defines Gram Sabha as “village assemble which shall consist of all adult members of a village and in case of States having no Panchayats, padas, tolas and other traditional village institutions and elected village committees, with full and unrestricted participation of women”

1.60 The Ministry has further stated that the Conservation-cum-Development plan of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups ensures that the needs of women are taken care of through separate Mahila Sabha meeting convened for identifying and

prioritising activities for inclusion in its Plan. Besides, due participation of women in the concerned Gram Sabha at the hamlet or habitat level is required.

1.61 Further, it was submitted that Daman and Diu reserves 1 seat of Sarpanch for tribal woman and 4 Panchayat wards (in total 8 wards) reserved for tribal women in Pariyari Panchayat.

PART II**OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE*****NEED TO RECALIBRATE THE ROLE OF THE MINISTRY***

2.1 The Committee are of the opinion that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not been truly effective in playing the role of a positive catalyst for the welfare of tribal communities in the country. A rather nonchalant approach of the Ministry is reflected in the prevailing ground-realities of tribal societies. Though the Ministry is mandated to provide a focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the tribals in a coordinated and planned manner, the Committee have observed during the examination of the subject that the Ministry has remained a mute spectator to the plight of the tribals in general and tribal women in particular. The Committee also feel that if all the special plans and programmes meant for tribals had been implemented sincerely over the years, the majority of the tribals in the country would not have still been under poverty line, and lacking in crucial health and social parameters like total fertility rate, undernourishment, literacy rate, child mortality rate etc. till today. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Government should take strongest possible steps to put an end to diversions and lapses of Tribal Sub-Plan funds in all States and identify sham projects in the name of tribal welfare to guarantee maximum returns from available funding. The Committee take serious note of the unavailability of tribal specific information/data with the Ministry on various important issues and welfare measures pertaining to tribals. This is mainly because of lack of unified planning and proper monitoring of implementation mechanism for various programmes. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to continuously co-ordinate with various implementing agencies, keep itself abreast of the latest figures related to the tribal issues especially pertaining to tribal women and come up with a comprehensive database on tribals within six months under intimation to them.

EXPANDING THE ECONOMIC HORIZON OF TRIBAL WOMEN

2.2 The Committee are happy to note that of-late tribal women have been engaging themselves in different economic activities that include animal husbandry, livestock management, goatery, poultry, horticulture, floriculture, handloom, handicraft, hospitality etc, besides agricultural activities. This is indicative of the fact that tribal society in general and tribal women in particular are ready to embrace new employment opportunities, should a favourable condition is created for them. The Committee also consider this diversification essential as, of late, agriculture is going through a rough patch owing to the vagaries of nature and market volatilities. Thus, besides agriculture, tribal women should be encouraged and provided the expertise in other vocations as well. For this, the concerned agencies should chalk out a perspective plan for implementation with a specific time frame. In this regard, the Committee would like to stress the need for 'micro start-ups'/'agro start-ups' especially designed for tribal societies. These ventures may be run on a co-operative model with locally available natural resources, generating employment and sustainable development opportunities for tribal women. Hence, The Committee strongly recommend the Ministry to draw-up a 'Start-up' roadmap for tribal entrepreneurs, particularly emphasizing the role of tribal women entrepreneurs, within the next six months and circulate it to the States/UTs for their comments. Experiences of '*Urlong tea project*', an agro Start-up, a case in point, in Meghalaya, may be worth-exploring and used as a reference point for drafting a roadmap for such initiatives .

CORPORATE WORLD NEEDS TO PITCH IN FOR TRIBALS

2.3 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and various Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments are implementing many schemes/programmes for the welfare of tribal communities. The Committee feel that the onus of resource mobilization for the welfare of tribals and tribal women need to be broad-based. The nation's burgeoning corporate sector should also contribute to the welfare of tribal population. Keeping this in view, it is imperative that a part of the mandatory

corporate social responsibility fund (CSR) in India is directed to the welfare of tribal women. Presently, there is no such obligation on the companies to mandatorily spend a part of their CSR fund on the welfare of tribal societies and it is left to their discretion to decide the areas of philanthropy. The Committee, therefore, desire that an amendment to the Companies Act may be initiated so that Companies contribute a part of their CSR funds for the welfare of tribal women and their welfare activities.

NEED TO HAVE EXCLUSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME FOR TRIBALS

2.4 The Committee have been apprised of the social security schemes directed towards women in the country. Though there is no dearth of schemes, none of these schemes are tribal-specific. The Committee find that many States have certain schemes which are tribal-centric, taking good care of tribal girls and women, but, no such worthwhile scheme is made available by Central Government as yet. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to chalk out a flagship scheme exclusively for welfare and empowerment of tribal women.

MALNUTRITION AMONG TRIBALS

2.5 The Committee cannot remain oblivious to the troublesome reality that malnutrition among tribals is alarmingly high despite the existence of many schemes/programmes to address the problem. It is observed that the prevalence of chronic energy deficiency among tribals is as high as 49% and even in a State like Kerala, where the health standards match with international standards, malnutrition among tribals is incredibly high. The Committee, hence, infer from the available facts that there exists serious flaws in the conception and execution of such schemes/programmes so far, otherwise the issue of tribal malnutrition, especially the nutritional indices of tribal women and children, would have definitely shown marked improvements. The Committee believe that primary focus has so far been on coverage rather than on improving the quality of those schemes/programmes; hence the lack of tangible outcomes in the efforts to deal with the problems. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend

the focus to be shifted to improving the quality of such actions. The Committee would also like the Government to concentrate on community-based management of malnutrition with the focus primarily on preventive promotive and curative interventions. Tribal communities need to be made aware of personal hygienic practices, feeding and weaning practices, etc. Regular monitoring of growth parameters of children and medical support in case of diseases is necessary to prevent many tribal communities from getting extinct. One of the major reasons of malnutrition, the Committee recognize, is the faulty feeding practices, resulting in undernourishment both in the general as well as tribal populace. Therefore, poor nutritional status of tribal children and women may also be a upshot of it. Thus, the Committee advise the Government to disseminate information in tribal languages on healthy feeding practices, preferably with indigenous foods that are cheap, nutritious, easily available and culturally and geographically rooted.

SAFE MOTHERHOOD AND HEALTHY CHILDHOOD FOR TRIBAL SOCIETY

2.6 The Committee strongly feel that the dismal health indicators among the tribals and, especially, the poor status of maternal and child health among them is attributed to lack of access to facilities, faulty delivery mechanisms, serious deficit of dedicated doctors and paramedics as well as to some native causes like unhygienic and primitive practices for child birth, aversion to inoculation , deliberate reduction of food intake with the intention to keep the size of the baby small during delivery and the habit of consuming alcohol even during the days of pregnancy. While it comes to childcare, the Committee are also aware of some harmful practices like discarding of colostrums, delayed initiation to breast-feeding, late introduction of complementary feeds and existence of magic beliefs in tribal societies. The Committee, therefore, feel that present healthcare initiatives are not fully geared-up to address the tribal specific needs and healthcare realities. The Committee, therefore, recommend to include a separate tribal component to all maternal and child health initiatives, taking into consideration the distinctive tribe-specific healthcare urgencies. This should be incorporated in consultation and co-operation with State/local Governments and other implementing agencies. The Committee

would urge the Ministry to inform about the steps taken in this regard within a period of three months.

PREVALENCE OF SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA AMONG TRIBALS

2.7 The Committee, much to its dismay, have noticed that sickle cell anemia (SCA) continues to be one of the major impediments to healthcare progress of tribal-people, especially to those living in Central and Southern parts of the country, where this disease is prevalent. The Committee also believe that effects of this debilitating disease get compounded by severe malnutrition, poverty and unhygienic living conditions. Although this disease is not curable and can only be controlled through drugs, it can certainly be prevented. The Committee are of the view that Government should have long initiated a massive programme across villages to identify the sickle cell traits among tribal people, particularly among tribal women. The Committee recommend to begin this at the earliest. It should be followed by issuance of cards, preferably of white, yellow and red, indicating their SCA status as not affected, carriers and affected respectively, all across tribal communities and villages. There is no problem if two individuals with white cards marry. White card holders can also marry yellow and red. But, no two yellow card holders, those who are carriers of SCA traits, should enter into a wedlock as this will result in future occurrence of the disease. The Committee would recommend this approach to be included in the healthcare schemes and community healthcare initiatives in all tribal districts of the country immediately.

BUCKING THE RATE OF DROP-OUTS

2.8 The Committee are appalled by the fact that the drop-out rate among tribal girls from elementary to higher levels of education is distressingly high. This rate among the tribal girls between classes I-V, I-VIII and I-X is 30.7%, 46.4% and 61.4% respectively as per the provisional figures for 2013-14. The Committee understand that there are many factors that are inseparably linked to this high rate of drop-outs among tribal girls, viz. lack of awareness about importance of education, migration of family to other

places, need to help parents in domestic works, illness of parents, death in family etc. To overcome this alarmingly high rate of drop-outs among them, the Committee would urge the Government to embark on urgent initiatives to construct more hostels for tribal girls and ensure physical security and safety of girl students studying in such schools. The wardens of such hostels should be women. Every tribal school should have separate toilets for girls with running water facility. The Committee would also underline the need to realign holidays in tribal schools to tribal festivities.

NEED TO EMPHASISE VERNACULAR EDUCATION

2.9 The Committee believe that lack of vernacular instruction in schools may have been a causative factor for high number of drop-outs among tribal children in India. While most of the tribal communities have a language of their own and in some cases also even the scripts, barring a few States, these are not part of medium of instructions in schools for tribal children. As a result, the Committee feel, the tribal children struggle to comprehend the texts and pedagogical interventions in schools. Proficiency in the mother language is essential for further learning as mother-tongue is considered to be the seed for basic thoughts, more so for school-tots. Thus, the Committee, emphasize the urgent need for quality primers in tribal dialects using regional scripts understood by them. For this to happen, the Committee recommend the Centre and State Governments to pull resources and entrust competent agencies to carry out the tasks in a time-bound manner as per the NCERT's National Curriculum Framework, 2005. The process must involve local experts from tribal communities, tribal school teachers, tribal-language experts from linguistic fields and people with immaculate credentials on pedagogical experiences. The Committee would also urge the Government to take this as a project of national importance to help prevent tribal dialects from getting enlisted as endangered /extinct.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AMONG TRIBAL WOMEN

2.10 The Committee are pleased to note that the Government are alert to the need of skill development of tribals and take note of the fact that Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) plays a pro-active role to impart training to tribal women on many fields, including shouldering the task of a facilitator and service provider to tribal business ventures. While, handicrafts made by the tribal women are accorded the status of heritage items by connoisseurs, the Committee feel that there is a need to align these products to prevailing markets demands and tastes of consumers. This mass acceptability is needed to make tribal products cost-effective, thereby generating revenues for tribal artisans in the long-run. The Committee believe that TRIFED has a crucial responsibility to play in this regard. To bridge the gap between tribal traditions and market demands, the Committee, recommend that TRIFED, while imparting training to artisans, weavers etc., should also rope in experts from prominent centers of excellences, like National Institute of Design, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Govt. Arts Colleges, etc. to prepare newer designs for their products according to the contemporary trends. The Committee also suggest that the Ministry should encourage Corporate entities to fund these initiatives and promote the products both within the country and for overseas markets.

NEED TO ACT AGAINST TRAFFICKING OF TRIBAL WOMEN

2.11 The Committee strongly condemn the attitude of the Ministry with regard to trafficking of tribal women. It is a pity that the Government has no reliable data on the number of tribal women trafficked from tribal belts to big cities and metropolises. Adding insult to the injury, the Ministry has gone ahead stating before the Committee that there is no reliable record available to indicate that tribal women, trafficked from tribal belts to cities, are engaged as maid servants, etc., when our newspapers and electronic media are flooded with such stories. Even Non Governmental Organizations working amongst tribals contradict the data of National Crime Records Bureau on trafficking of tribals and put it in tens of thousands instead of two digit numbers. The Committee are utterly dismayed to see that the Government have been insensitive to this

gigantic problem. The need of the hour is to have seamless co-operation between all agencies, Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities, Police, local administration and society, to keep the traffickers at bay. The Committee desire that a dedicated web-portal against trafficking and traffickers, with regular inputs from the Centre and all States/UTs, ought to be launched and given ample publicity nationally. Moreover, the Committee propose thoroughgoing campaigns in vulnerable areas involving school teachers, tribal chieftains, people's representatives and village heads, who can play vital roles in making growing girls and their parents aware about the intrigues of the whole process of trafficking. The measures taken by the State of Odisha, which has set up 12 Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Units, can be replicated in others States as well, especially the States from which most cases of trafficking are reported, namely, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

PLACEMENT AGENCIES TO BE REGULATED

2.12 The Committee also feel the urgent need to regulate placement agencies which act as conduits for trafficking tribal girls to metropolitan cities. The Committee have learnt that many a times, the young women/girls are lured to the city in the name of domestic jobs and are traded hands putting them into a life of misery, bonded laborers or sex slavery in the absence of a regulatory mechanism. Since domestic workers form a huge chunk of work force and the metro women are truly dependent and indebted to them, it is long overdue that their work is given dignity and recognition. The Committee, hence, recommend that the Government should come up at the earliest with a legislation to regulate placement agencies and recognise domestic workers as a work force. It should be made mandatory for placement agencies to get registered with the department concerned and submit the details of women getting placed by them as domestic workers to the Government. Strict action should be taken against illegal agencies working without registration.

ATROCITIES AGAINST TRIBAL WOMEN

2.13 The Committee are of the view that existing laws to safeguard tribal women against atrocities have not been responsive enough to protect them

from such crimes. This grim reality is reflected in the data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) as well. Apart from being hoodwinked by non-tribal people, crimes of grievous nature, such as, murder, rape, molestation and grave hurt etc. against tribal women are not rare, notwithstanding the existence of stringent laws. The Committee are also perturbed by the inaction of police and administration to such injustices, unwarranted delay in reporting of those cases, failure to register cognizable offences, time-lag in visits to the scene of crimes and also by the delays in charge-sheeting the accused persons. Thus, the Committee would suggest an overhauling of the administration, particularly the police force, in tribal dominated areas to make them responsive, alert and sensitive to the crimes against tribal women. The Committee, therefore, recommend to operationalize a 'Special Cell' under the Station House Officer (SHO) in each police station, particularly in tribal-dominated areas, to take on-time cognizance and remain accountable for any lapses in taking note of such offences. The Committee would also like these cells to periodically send reports to offices of Director General of Police, National Human Rights Commission, Commission in respective States and to National Commission for Scheduled Tribes for their subsequent scrutiny, validation and necessary follow up action.

HUMANE MEASURES FOR SURRENDERED NAXALS

2.14 The Committee welcome the initiatives taken by the Government for rehabilitation of surrendered Naxalites. These efforts, the Committee find, have proven to be effective in bringing down left-wing extremism in troubled areas of the country to some extent. Yet, the Committee, desire the police and Para-military forces to be more pro-active as they work towards assimilating the tribal people to the national mainstream. The aim should be to connect with the people, particularly with tribal women and make a bridge with them emotionally, to bring about a change on ground to help the State gain a benevolent face. The Committee are also aware that a large chunk of extremist foot-soldiers are women and many of them are exploited, abused and later abandoned by insurgent groups, eventually

leaving them to fend for themselves in pitiable conditions. These women can be trained and given jobs as mid-day meal cooks in primary schools, anganwadi workers, midwives and jobs in many such areas where their rehabilitation is possible and self-sustenance ensured. The Committee, therefore, urge upon Government to chalk out a programme for the rehabilitation of such women in all insurgency affected districts in the country and implement it in a time bound manner.

THE POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT FOR A MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

2.15 The Committee understand that participation of tribal women in political processes, made possible through reservation of seats in Panchayats and Municipal bodies, have so far been proven favorable for political empowerment of tribal women. It has also opened up the scope for meaningful social engagement. Yet, the Committee are of the view that the quality of their participation has been scarcely satisfactory. Tribal women, more often than not, are forced to act as stooges in local bodies and seldom seen asserting themselves in terms of identification of beneficiaries, assigning contacts, preparation of budgets, planning etc. The Committee are also aware of the root causes that come in their way to enjoy the maximum benefits of such political entitlements. Among others, these include low level of education, lack of leadership skills and awareness, household pressures, dependence on male family members, role of patriarchy and social outlook. Thus, the Committee believe that the Ministry and State Governments need to engage voluntary organizations, women groups, social organizations and competent NGOs to politically engage tribal women representatives through an array of short duration camps, workshops, seminars throughout the year across such bodies with the aim of instilling confidence among them with the adjunct goal of preparing them for such responsibilities. The Committee would urge the authorities to prepare a list of such organizations State-wise and arrange resources to undertake those initiatives. The Government may also, the Committee would suggest, come up with special incentives for the

bureaucrats who show exemplary contribution in fields of political empowerment of tribal women through their novel initiatives.

**NEW DELHI;
28 April, 2016
8 Vaishakha , 1938 (Saka)**

**BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY,
Chairperson,
Committee on Empowerment of Women.**

Break-up of population of different tribal groups of the country State wise as per Census 2011

Sl No	INDIA/STATE/ UT	ST Population			% of ST Female
		Total	Male	Female	
	India	104545716	52547215	51998501	49.7
1	Jammu & Kashmir	1493299	776257	717042	48.0
2	Himachal Pradesh	392126	196118	196008	50.0
3	Punjab	0	0	0	0.0
4	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0.0
5	Uttarakhand	291903	148669	143234	49.1
6	Haryana	0	0	0	0.0
7	Nct Of Delhi	0	0	0	0.0
8	Rajasthan	9238534	4742943	4495591	48.7
9	Uttar Pradesh	1134273	581083	553190	48.8
10	Bihar	1336573	682516	654057	48.9
11	Sikkim	206360	105261	101099	49.0
12	Arunachal Pradesh	951821	468390	483431	50.8
13	Nagaland	1710973	866027	844946	49.4
14	Manipur	1167422	588279	579143	49.6
15	Mizoram	1036115	516294	519821	50.2
16	Tripura	1166813	588327	578486	49.6
17	Meghalaya	2555861	1269728	1286133	50.3
18	Assam	3884371	1957005	1927366	49.6
19	West Bengal	5296953	2649974	2646979	50.0
20	Jharkhand	8645042	4315407	4329635	50.1
21	Odisha	9590756	4727732	4863024	50.7
22	Chhattisgarh	7822902	3873191	3949711	50.5
23	Madhya Pradesh	15316784	7719404	7597380	49.6
24	Gujarat	8917174	4501389	4415785	49.5
25	Daman & Diu	15363	7771	7592	49.4
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	178564	88844	89720	50.2
27	Maharashtra	10510213	5315025	5195188	49.4
28	Telangana	32,86,879	16,59,938	16,26,941	49.5
29	Andhra Pradesh	26,31,145	13,09,399	13,21,746	50.2
30	Karnataka	4248987	2134754	2114233	49.8
31	Goa	149275	72948	76327	51.1
32	Lakshadweep	61120	30515	30605	50.1
33	Kerala	484839	238203	246636	50.9
34	Tamil Nadu	794697	401068	393629	49.5
35	Puducherry	0	0	0	0.0
36	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	28530	14731	13799	48.4

Number of ST Women Involved In non- agricultural activities

Name	Nos.
India	3806991
JAMMU & KASHMIR	74007
HIMACHAL PRADESH	17521
UTTARAKHAND	11903
RAJASTHAN	313422
UTTAR PRADESH	36345
BIHAR	29337
SIKKIM	16125
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	44244
NAGALAND	100648
MANIPUR	63753
MIZORAM	73235
TRIPURA	59424
MEGHALAYA	150738
ASSAM	175625
WEST BENGAL	294932
JHARKHAND	290095
ODISHA	420471
CHHATTISGARH	169355
MADHYA PRADESH	339375
GUJARAT	267133
DAMAN & DIU	1883
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	8330
MAHARASHTRA	306232
ANDHRA PRADESH	207387
KARNATAKA	225305
GOA	13856
LAKSHADWEEP	3328
KERALA	42778
TAMIL NADU	46262
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	3942

Percentage of Agricultural Labour to the total ST female workers

Sl.No	Name	% of AL to total ST female workers
00	India	55.1
01	JAMMU & KASHMIR	11.4
02	HIMACHAL PRADESH	4.8
05	UTTARAKHAND	20.9
08	RAJASTHAN	32.9
09	UTTAR PRADESH	62.4
10	BIHAR	74.9
11	SIKKIM	12.6
12	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	5.2
13	NAGALAND	6.8
14	MANIPUR	7.6
15	MIZORAM	8.6
16	TRIPURA	46.7
17	MEGHALAYA	21.7
18	ASSAM	22.9
19	WEST BENGAL	67.4
20	JHARKHAND	47.1
21	ODISHA	68.1
22	CHHATTISGARH	55.0
23	MADHYA PRADESH	63.5
24	GUJARAT	72.0
25	DAMAN & DIU	7.5
26	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	42.7
27	MAHARASHTRA	67.1
28	ANDHRA PRADESH	68.3
29	KARNATAKA	61.6
30	GOA	28.1
31	LAKSHADWEEP	0.0
32	KERALA	48.3
33	TAMIL NADU	53.6
35	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	1.1

State wise Illiterates, Literates & Literacy Rates for Scheduled Tribes* by Sex for Age Group 7 & above – 2011 Census

Sl. No	India/States/UTs	Literates			Illiterates			Literacy Rates		
		Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
	INDIA	51765473	30140649	21624824	36041413	13852844	22188569	58.95	68.51	49.36
1	ANDHRA PRADESH/TELENGANA	2532727	1499586	1033141	2614371	1070475	1543896	49.21	58.35	40.09
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	517173	280230	236943	283669	111794	171875	64.58	71.48	57.96
3	ASSAM	2403972	1323962	1080010	931967	352867	579100	72.06	78.96	65.10
4	BIHAR	555088	340651	214437	531556	214946	316610	51.08	61.31	40.38
5	CHHATTISGARH	3913827	2279320	1634507	2709983	992061	1717922	59.09	69.67	48.76
6	GOA	106334	56982	49352	28033	8393	19640	79.14	87.16	71.53
7	GUJARAT	4688536	2707845	1980691	2815326	1069877	1745449	62.48	71.68	53.16
8	HIMACHAL PRADESH	253475	142461	111014	90737	28834	61903	73.64	83.17	64.20
9	JHARKHAND	4101010	2435530	1665480	3077099	1137430	1939669	57.13	68.17	46.20
10	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	601703	374225	227478	588478	243461	345017	50.56	60.58	39.73
11	KARNATAKA	2289909	1315619	974290	1398551	533785	864766	62.08	71.14	52.98
12	KERALA	326272	169812	156460	104104	40444	63660	75.81	80.76	71.08
13	MAHARASHTRA	5887161	3357543	2529618	3069686	1163084	1906602	65.73	74.27	57.02
14	MANIPUR	735410	392801	342609	277764	115160	162604	72.58	77.33	67.81
15	MEGHALAYA	1526583	764768	761815	521654	247624	274030	74.53	75.54	73.55
16	MIZORAM	801259	406952	394307	74292	27879	46413	91.51	93.59	89.47
17	MADHYA PRADESH	6313661	3734771	2578890	6176243	2536488	3639755	50.55	59.55	41.47
18	NAGALAND	1165974	610914	555060	290809	124195	166614	80.04	83.11	76.91
19	ODISHA	4215630	2522307	1693323	3854294	1437482	2416812	52.24	63.70	41.20
20	RAJASTHAN	3980746	2608808	1371938	3558223	1249309	2308914	52.80	67.62	37.27
21	SIKKIM	147088	79981	67107	37362	14108	23254	79.74	85.01	74.27
22	TAMIL NADU	375343	214417	160926	315416	132463	182953	54.34	61.81	46.80
23	TRIPURA	783770	431036	352734	207657	67668	139989	79.05	86.43	71.59
24	UTTAR PRADESH	516553	318528	198025	411174	156304	254870	55.68	67.08	43.72
25	UTTARAKHAND	190137	109261	80876	67210	21496	45714	73.88	83.56	63.89
26	WEST BENGAL	2664431	1565691	1098740	1935146	731056	1204090	57.93	68.17	47.71
UNION TERRITORIES										
27	A & N ISLANDS	18658	10323	8335	6028	2442	3586	75.58	80.87	69.92

28	D & N HAVELI	92759	54757	38002	57210	19621	37589	61.85	73.62	50.27
29	DAMAN & DIU	10708	5907	4801	2882	943	1939	78.79	86.23	71.23
30	LAKSHADWEEP	49576	25661	23915	4489	1155	3334	91.70	95.69	87.76

***No ST population in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi and Puducherry as per Census 2011**

APPENDIX I**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2014-2015)****MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON
FRIDAY, THE 10th APRIL, 2015**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1600 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS**LOK SABHA**

2. Smt. Anju Bala
3. Smt. Bhavana Gawali
4. Smt. Riti Pathak
5. Smt. Rakshatai Khadse
6. Smt. Anupriya Patel
7. Smt. Jayshreeben Patel
8. Smt. Satabdi Roy
9. Smt. Rita Tarai
10. Smt. P.K. Sreemathi Teacher
11. Smt. R. Vanaroja

RAJYA SABHA

12. Smt. Kahkashan Perween
13. Sh. A.V. Swamy

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita Jain - Joint Secretary
2. Shri S.C. Chaudhary - Director
3. Smt. Reena Gopalakrishnan - Deputy Secretary

Representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Hrusikesh Panda | - Secretary, |
| 2. | Shri Ashok Pai | - Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Shri Manoj Kumar Pingua | - Joint Secretary |
| 4. | Ms. Nivedita | - Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the members of the Committee to the sitting convened to have a briefing by the representatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in connection with examination of the subject 'Empowerment of Tribal Women'.

[Witnesses were then called in]

3. After welcoming the witnesses, the Chairperson read out Direction 55, regarding confidentiality of the proceedings. In her initial remarks the Chairperson apprised the representatives of the Ministry regarding the concern of the Committee in relation to empowerment of tribal women and wide variations in achieving success in schemes oriented towards them. After that, the representatives of the Ministry, through their power point presentation, briefed the Committee about the issues and challenges in regard to tribal population in the Country, major initiatives of the Ministry to empower tribal women and progress made so far by the Government in this direction.

4. Thereafter, the Committee discussed major issues in regard to the subject which included concentration of Scheduled Tribe population in different parts of the Country, details regarding the funds under tribal sub plan and its execution and monitoring, State-Wise details of tribal women and their social, educational and economic condition, issue of sickle cell anemia among tribal women and health card issued to them in various States, utilization and supervision of the funds given to the various NGO's and number of girls availing Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship.

5. The other issues which emerged during the sitting were smart classes and awareness campaign for tribal girl students, need for Vigilance and Monitoring Committee for this department to check development of various schemes run by the

Ministry for tribal women , land rights of ST population under Forest Rights Act,2006 and details of numbers of Aadhar card issued to tribal woman population etc.

6. The clarifications sought by the Members on various points were provided by the representatives of the Ministry. However, on some of the points where the information was not readily available, the Hon'ble Chairperson instructed the Ministry to furnish the written replies to the secretariat at the earliest.

[The witnesses then withdrew]

7. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2015-2016)****MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON
FRIDAY, THE 29th January, 2016**

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs. to 1230 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty - Chairperson

MEMBERS**LOK SABHA**

2. Smt. Anju Bala
3. Smt. Rama Devi
4. Smt. Jyoti Dhurve
5. Smt. Anupriya Patel
6. Smt. Satabdi Roy
7. Smt Rita Tarai
8. Smt. P.K. Sreemathi Teacher
9. Smt. Savitri Thakur
10. Smt. R. Vanaroja

RAJYA SABHA

13. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai
14. Smt. Kahkashan Perween
15. Shri Kanak Lata Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri S.C. Chaudhary - Director
2. Smt. Reena Gopalakrishnan - Deputy Secretary

Representatives of M/o Tribal Affairs

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Shri Arun Jha | - | Secretary, M/o Tribal Affairs |
| 2. | Shri Ashok Pai | - | Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Shri Manoj Kumar Pingua | - | Joint Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Lalsanglur | - | Deputy Director General |
| 5. | Smt. Vishnu Maini | - | Economic Advisor |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the members of the Committee to the sitting convened to have oral evidence of the M/o Tribal Affairs in connection with examination of the subject 'Empowerment of Tribal Women'.

[Witnesses were then called in]

3. After welcoming the witnesses, the Chairperson read out Direction 55, regarding confidentiality of the proceedings. In her initial remarks, the Chairperson ruefully opined that tribal women are most deprived among all women in the country and underlined it to be the reason for the Committee to take such a keen interest on the subject. After that, members red-flagged the growing menace of trafficking of tribal girls in the guise of lure of jobs by placement agencies in many parts of the country, more so in metropolitan cities. Members desired to know from the Ministry about the guidelines, if any, issued to the State Governments about the issue and other steps being initiated by them to arrest the shocking trend. The Ministry representatives could not answer the queries satisfactorily and referred the matter as the one being taken up by other Ministries and constitutional bodies, namely Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Labour and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes etc. The Committee, however, was dissatisfied and expressed their displeasure for the same.

4. Thereafter, during the course of discussion, a whole gamut of issues that are inseparably linked to welfare and empowerment of tribal women were held forth. The discussion touched upon many issues like school drop-out rates among tribal girls; need for strengthening of vernacular education for tribal students; healthcare concerns related to malnutrition, chronic energy deficiencies, high percentage of infant and neo-natal

mortality rates among tribals as well as the need for re-orientation of welfare programmes meant for them. The deliberations, inter-alia, also figured irregularities in disbursement of scholarships to tribal girls, infrastructural deficiencies in residential schools for tribal students, dearth of co-ordination between different Ministries and lack of oversight with regard to implementation of schemes for tribal women.

5. The representatives of the Ministry put forth their views in respect of implementing mechanism related to schemes and programmes as they defined the role of Project Appraisal Committees, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan Committee etc in their submission. They also clarified on the responsibilities of State Governments on whose proposals various schemes are finally undertaken. The urgency of running Ashram schools well in co-ordination with State Governments came up for discussion as well, besides the suggestion of an Umbrella Scheme, now under consideration of the Ministry, that may allow more flexibility to the State Governments to address the issues of tribal women more qualitatively. The sitting ended with a direction by the Hon'ble Chairperson of the Committee to the Ministry to send the written replies on the queries made by the Committee on which answers were not readily available, at the earliest.

[The witnesses then withdrew]

7. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX III**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (2015-2016)****MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY, THE 28th APRIL, 2016**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1540 hrs. in Room No. 130 (Chairperson's Chamber), Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty - Chairperson

MEMBERS**LOK SABHA**

2. Smt. Anju Bala
3. Smt. Rama Devi
4. Smt. Jyoti Dhurve
5. Smt. Riti Pathak
6. Smt. Jayshreeben Patel
7. Smt. Mala Rajyalakshmi Shah
8. Smt. Rita Tarai
9. Smt. P.K. Sreemathi Teacher
10. Smt. Savitri Thakur
11. Smt. Supriya Sule

RAJYA SABHA

12. Smt. Vandana Chavan
13. Smt. Kahkashan Perween
14. Smt. Kanak Lata Singh
15. Shri A.V. Swamy
16. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri N. C. Gupta - Joint Secretary
2. Shri S.C. Chaudhary - Director
3. Smt. Reena Gopalakrishnan - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee thereafter took up for consideration the Draft Report on the subject 'Empowerment of Tribal Women'. After discussing the Draft Report in detail, the Committee adopted the Draft Report without modifications.

3. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Draft Report and present the same to both the Houses of Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.
